

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

COA-01 DLOS-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAM-01 /052 W

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R 140650Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3257

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB EWWT AO

SUBJECT: CEMENT COMPANY AND PORT PROBLEMS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SECIL OVERSEAS, THE LARGEST CEMENT PRODUCER IN THIS PART OF AFRICA AND A MAJOR EXPORTER TO NIGERIA, GABON AND SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS HAS BEEN UNABLE FOR MONTHS TO MOVE ITS CEMENT OUT OF LUANDA WITH ANY DISPATCH BECAUSE OF PORT CONGESTION CAUSED BY A GENERAL SLOWDOWN OF DOCK WORKERS. SECIL HAS TOLD THE GOVERNMENT, FOR THE SECOND OR THIRD TIME WE SHOULD ADD, THAT UNLESS IT CAN GET PRIORITY FOR ITS SHIPS IT WILL SHUT DOWN IN ONE MORE MONTH. THE COMPANY CLAIMS TO HAVE

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LOST THREE MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR AND STANDS TO LOSE MUCH MORE

IF IT CANNOT FULLFIL ITS CONTRACTS THIS YEAR. SECIL HAS A 200,000 TON CONTRACT WITH NIGERIA AND ONE FOR 90,000 WITH GABON.

2. WHEN THE GABONESE WERE HERE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT THEY WENT TO SEE THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION TO ASK FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. GABON DEPENDS UPON ANGOLAN CEMENT FOR VIRTUALLY ALL ITS NEEDS AND ACCORDING TO THE GABONESE, PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS ARE ABOUT TO COME TO A HALT FOR LACK OF CEMENT. THE MINISTER PROFESSED TO SEE THE PROBLEM AND PROMISED TO DO SOMETHING TO RESOLVE IT.

3. THE LABOR SITUATION HAS SHOWN NO SIGN OF IMPROVING. THE LIBERATION GROUPS RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ISSUED A CALL TO ALL WORKERS TO PUT OUT MAXIMUM EFFORT AND HAVE APPEALED FOR AN END TO STRIKES. THEY ALSO SAID POINTEDLY IN A COMMUNIQUE THAT THEY WILL NOT HESITATE TO CONVERT THE APPEAL INTO AN ORDER. THE WAITING TIME AT LUANDA IS FORTY DAYS TO AS MUCH AS TWO MONTHS.

4. MEANWHILE, THE PORT SITUATION AT LOBITO REMAINS IN A DISASTROUS STATE. WAITING TIME IS EIGHTY DAYS. MOST SHIPPING CONFERENCES HAVE INCREASED THEIR SURCHARGES RECENTLY FOR BOTH LOBITO AND LUANDA. ON FEBRUARY THREE CEWAL, WHICH PLIES THE WEST COAST FROM NORTH SEA PORTS, IMPOSED AN EIGHTY PER CENT SURCHARGE FOR IMPORTS TO LOBITO, AND FIFTY PERCENT FOR EXPORTS. ON THE SAME DATE CEWAL RAISED ITS SURCHARGE IN LUANDA TO SEVENTY PERCENT. NAWL (NORTH AMERICAN WEST AFRICAN LINES) THE CONFERENCE TO WHICH DELTA AND FARRELL LINES BELONG, IMPOSED A FIFTY PERCENT SURCHARGE AT LOBITO AND LUANDA BEGINNING FEBRUARY FIFTEEN. SURCHARGES FOR OTHER CONFERENCES RANGE UP TO ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (UNITED KINGDOM AT LOBITO).
KILLORAN

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